

preventive measures which have been most effective in raising the energies of the system, and repressing its diseased tendencies. That the premonitory or threatening signs of the disease may also awaken an early solicitude, and incite to a timely application for medical aid, and to communicate some little information on the question relating to sea voyages and warm climates in consumption, which is often so momentous to the sick, and so embarrassing to friends."

The work commences with a brief and general history of consumption, and the climates in which it is most prevalent, its relative mortality, &c.: next is introduced "a general view of the lungs and their functions." After which are considered, the pathology of the disease; the physical characters indicating a tendency to consumption; its relative prevalence in the two sexes, and the ages during which it is most frequent. "A concise account of hæmoptysis, or bleeding from the lungs," follows. Then "the causes of consumption, and their means of prevention, so far as known," are examined. The history of the symptoms, is next presented. Then "an account of the diet and regimen best adapted to the premonitory and declared state of the malady." And lastly, "the influence exercised by sea voyages and change of climate on the disease," is particularly considered, together with the period and circumstances in which these means will be likely to exert a beneficial agency; and some necessary directions are given in regard to them.

"I am not aware," says Dr. S. "that any work precisely of the character designated is now before the public; and whether such a one is wanted, and if so, whether the present will answer such want, the public must decide. I cannot, however, but indulge the hope that I may be able to impart some instruction to that numerous class of individuals who seem marked for the victims of consumption, and may tend either to prevent its development, repress it in the beginning of its course, or, if no more, smooth the destined passage to the grave."

How far the work before us will fulfil the desirable objects proposed by its publication, will admit of some dispute. This much, however, we are prepared to say, that it is as well adapted to this end, as any work of the kind can be. In relation to every thing which the author has advanced concerning the subjects of which he treats, he is borne out fully by the experience and observations of the most experienced and authoritative physicians: we have indeed seldom read a popular treatise upon any medical subject in which fewer errors occur, or in which a larger amount of valuable information is so happily condensed.

D. F. C.

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ART. XX. *A Memoir of James Jackson, M. D., with extracts from his letters to his father; and Medical cases, collected by him.*—By JAMES JACKSON, M. D., Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic in Harvard University; and Physician of the Massachusetts General Hospital. Boston, 1835.\*

This memoir is one which has interested the profession in many respects. It is a tribute of affection from a father to the memory of a talented and most promising son. It shows us the vivid impression produced upon the ardent mind of youth, by a scientific tour throughout those portions of Europe in which the Medical sciences are cultivated most successfully; and it indicates the proper course to be followed by those members of our profession who would wish to pursue them in the true philosophical spirit. To the entire correctness of a parent's portrait, none can bear more unequivocal testimony than the author of this notice, who looked upon the subject of the memoir as one of his nearest friends and most talented fellow students at the instructive school of Pathology afforded by the Parisian hospitals. His loss was not confined to the imme-

\* An apology seems due for the late period at which this notice appears. A short review of the memoir was prepared as soon as the work reached Philadelphia. But from some circumstance, it was thought doubtful whether a notice of a work which had never been published would have been agreeable to the author; and the intention to do so was, therefore, for the time, relinquished; but is now resumed, in consequence of the work being reviewed in one of our cotemporaries.

diate circle of his friends; it extended its effects to the Medical public: a considerable mass of facts he had already collected, and it was his intention to have added largely to their number; but what was still more essential to the profession, the mind of Dr. Jackson had been already disciplined to accurate habits of study, and he was thoroughly prepared to cultivate with success the arduous pursuits of his science. A favourable position at Boston was very soon secured for him, and time only was wanting for the completion of some of those researches into which he had entered with so much zeal.

James Jackson, Jr., left Boston in the spring of 1831, and returned in the summer of 1833. About six months of this period was spent in the British Islands, but the remainder of his time was devoted to a course of study at Paris. His principal object in visiting Europe, was to acquire a correct knowledge of the various methods of investigating disease, and a facility in their practical application. These views were greatly promoted by an acquaintance which he formed while at Paris, with some of the most eminent pathologists, more especially Louis and Audral. He afterwards prosecuted his studies under the direction of Dr. Louis, and devoted himself for some time to the observation of disease at La Pitié, one of the largest Parisian hospitals. At that hospital he collected a large mass of materials for future comparison with such cases as he might observe in America. These cases were full of details, and were noted with the greatest care, at an immense sacrifice of time and labour; they are, therefore, in themselves so valuable, that we cannot help regretting that they are not numerous enough to form the basis of a separate publication.

At the return of Dr. Jackson to America, he recommenced his studies, and examined with great attention the symptoms and pathological anatomy of an epidemic of typhus fever which prevailed at Boston in the winter of 1833-4. He found that the glands of Peyer were uniformly diseased, and offered the same anatomical lesions as they do in the dothinerteritis which is so prevalent at Paris, and is admirably described by Louis and Chomel. At last he contracted the fever himself, and suffered most severely; he recovered, however, and was on the point of entering into practice, when a return of severe diarrhœa, to which he had been subject at Paris, obliged him to relinquish his intentions. A slight amelioration of his symptoms gave his friends great hopes of recovery, but as if he were the destined victim of death, he had not left his bed, when he was attacked by a mortal inflammation of the pericardium.

Although that portion of the work which consists of the materials collected at Paris, is necessarily limited to cases and letters written by him to his father, it contains much interesting matter. The letters give a lively picture of the objects which most interested him at Paris; the interesting cases of disease brought into the hospitals, and the constant and laborious efforts which he made to verify by his personal observation, every new fact which was presented to him in the lectures or the writings of the French pathologists. Another fruitful source of instruction was derived from the familiar conversations on scientific subjects into which he had so frequently entered with the French hospital physicians, especially with Dr. Louis, who is always ready to communicate his knowledge to such pupils as may take a due degree of interest in medical science. These conversations are often alluded to, and when peculiarly interesting, were related in his letters. It is a mode of instruction which is more peculiarly French than any other, and when derived from accurate sources, is perhaps the most valuable.

The cases are less interesting to most readers than the letters, but are useful models of accurately observed facts, and make us regret more deeply that he was not permitted to continue the life of laborious investigation which he had commenced under such happy auspices. Facts of this kind must at last be regarded as the only sure basis of medical science, and sooner or later the value of this mode of research will be appreciated.

The memoir which forms the introduction to this work, does equal honour to Professor Jackson as a physician and as a parent. It is written in the most correct taste, there is no exaggeration of feeling, and no undue praise of his gifted son. It is a just tribute to the memory of one who was beloved as a man, and respected as a youthful member of the profession, already well known by his labours, and affording the best grounded hopes of future eminence. A painful reflection, which is scarcely alluded to in the memoir, arises from the fact, that Dr. Jackson fell a victim to his ardour in the pursuit of professional knowledge. The first link in the chain of disease was formed at Paris, the affection of the bowels, which was the indirect cause of his death, was contracted there, and was neglected that no moment might be lost at a time when his occupations were all-absorbing. But for this mistaken view, we should not now lament the early loss of one of the most promising of American physicians.

W. W. G.

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ART. XXI. *Diatribæ in Diæticam Veterum, maxime in Auli Cornelii Celsi præcepta diætetica, Hippocratis et Galeni placitis illustrata. Auctore CAROLUS JOSEPHUS VAN COOTH. Trajecti ad Rhenum, 1835. 8vo. pp. 148.*

A Dissertation upon ancient dietetics, especially the dietetic precepts of Celsus, with illustrations from the Maxims of Hippocrates and Galen; submitted to the Medical Faculty of the University of Utrecht, for the degree of Doctor in Medicine. By C. J. VAN COOTH. Utrecht, 1835.

The above title conveys but an imperfect idea of the work to which it is affixed. This embraces not only a dissertation upon the dietetic precepts of Celsus, preceded by a notice of his life and doctrines, but also a historical account of the food, meals, dietetic precepts, laws, and customs of the ancients—more particularly the Greeks and Romans.

Every portion of the work displays the learning and research of the author, and the historical part, especially, is replete with curious and interesting information as to the opinions which were entertained and the regulations that were enforced by the priests, philosophers, legislators, and physicians of antiquity in reference to a subject of the very first importance, not only to the members of the medical profession, but to society at large.

Erudite, however, and interesting as this dissertation of M. Van Cooth unquestionably is, it can lay but slight claim to any thing like practical utility.

The general precepts and experience recorded by the earlier writers in relation to dietetics, are in accordance with those of every subsequent age, and perfectly familiar to every well instructed physician. The pernicious effects of excess in eating and drinking, on the one hand, and of deficient and unwholesome food on the other—the necessity of abstinence in disease and the fact that the well-being of the body and the mind is promoted by a plain and moderate diet were as well known and as fully pointed out by the ancients as by the moderns. But, when we enter into details, the errors and prejudices of the former are so numerous and important as to destroy entirely the value of the dietetic rules. Indeed, upon every department of dietetics, whether considered in its application to the treatment of diseases, or to the promotion of the health, vigour and longevity of man, much important light has been thrown by facts and physiological principles, for the establishment of which we are indebted to very recent observers.

Had the same amount of industry, as is displayed in the work under notice, been employed in collecting and arranging the materials for a treatise on *modern dietetics*, the result we are persuaded would have been equally creditable to the author, and in every point of view far more acceptable to the profession into which the performance was intended to induct him.

D. F. C.